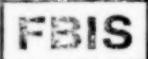


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15 November 1984

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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15 November 1984

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MILITARY AFFAIRS**

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ARMED FORCES

BELIEVERS DEALT WITH THROUGH FREQUENT TRANSFERS

Moscow NAUKA I RELIGIYA in Russian No 5, 1984 pp 8-9

[Article by Maj N. Khaust: "Constant Work Is Needed"]

[Text] Maj A. Kulagin lifted the telephone receiver.

"Send over to headquarters Private...." He paused and looked in my direction.
"You know, the one who..., what is his..., our believer."

"Private Pavlovets," I found his last name in my notebook.

"That is it, Pavlovets," the battalion deputy commander for political affairs
sighed heavily and reached for his cigarettes.

A strong, handsome young soldier of medium height entered the office.

"Private Pavlovets," he reported.

We began to talk.

I learned that Pavlovets grew up in a family of rural workers. Prior to military service, he managed to graduate from the tekhnikum for radioelectric instrument building in Krasnodar. His parents are believers and they raised their son in their faith.

"Do you have any brothers and sisters?" I asked with interest.

"I sure do," he smiled.

"And what do they write to you about, what do they want?"

The soldier pulled a letter out of his breast pocket.

"Read it please."

It was written by one of his "sisters," Ira Mad'yarova, a graduate of the Krasnodar Architectural-Design Tekhnikum.

She related how the evangelical Christians of their congregation were living: "Yesterday evening, I was busy until 1 am putting the choir of our prayer house on tape. I prepared 12 cassettes. She further pleased her "brother" by saying that they put together special albums for him and four other fellows serving in the army. At the end of the letter, she asked whether he had taken his oath and at this point she ordered him to "remain with the Lord God."

"And do many believers write to you?" I asked.

"Fourteen people," answered Pavlovets with satisfaction. "Nobody else in our company receives so many letters."

A little time passes and Pavlovets leaves, having excused himself politely. With an abrupt movement, the major puts out his cigarette in the ashtray and says:

"Just to think, how they patronize.... We try, we try, but so far it has all been in vain. This Pavlovets is difficult. One of the unyielding ones."

Indeed, there is something to think about here. And above all about how they in the collective are really trying to help a soldier. And can it be that a believer becomes "unyielding" precisely when he encounters the apathy of those surrounding him, and the indifference toward his fate?

I cannot help but remember another incident. In a solemn scene, the young soldiers were presented their weapons. Then it was the turn of Private F. Shenkel'. Tali, athletically built, he just touched the automatic weapon and lost consciousness.

"It appears that a sunstroke felled Shenkel'," someone surmised.

"No, there is something else involved here," thought A. Yeremenko, a nearby officer. After talking with the soldier, he found that Shenkel' was a believer.

"Along with the automatic weapon," he sighed, "I took sin upon my soul." After a pause, he added: "That would all be of no consequence, but I am afraid for my wife and little daughter...."

"And what can threaten them?"

"Our congregation's priest is not pleased. In letters, he threatens: 'If you violate the Lord's commandments, you will see no happiness.'"

"Relax, Shenkel'," the officer's hand rested on the soldier's shoulder. "You will see that everything will be all right."

The evening of the same day, Yeremenko wrote to the village of Gorkunovo in Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast. He noted on the envelope: "to the chairman of the kolkhoz." And the next morning, the activists came together for a special meeting. Someone noted that Private Shenkel' secretly draws and does a pretty good job of molding various clay figures. They decided that they had to try

to get the soldier involved in social work. And still another valuable suggestion followed--to collectively read and discuss the novel "Shadows Disappear at Noon" by the writer A. Ivanov, a countryman of Shenkel'.

"That is a worthwhile suggestion," rejoiced Yeremenko and immediately caught himself thinking: "If only another letter from the kolkhoz chairman would arrive on time."

The letter was not delayed. Kolkhoz chairman Afanasiy Nikolayevich Kaygorodov shared fully the alarm about the soldier's fate. He promised to support and protect his family, if necessary, against malicious gossip. In addition, he handed over to the officer a great advantage by painting an image of the priest Yakov Bayev.

The activists used this in discussing the novel "Shadows Disappear at Noon." When the discussion turned to the arch criminal and obscurantist Ustin Morozov, who brutally tortured his own son, the scout Fedor, Yeremenko spoke up:

"Shades of the past are still roaming among us," he said excitedly. "Listen to what we just found out about Yakov Bayev, the priest of the congregation in the village of Gorkunovo...."

Private Shenkel', on hearing the name of his spiritual preceptor, became bewildered and anxious. Later, when the discussion of the book ended, he approached the officer and said quietly:

"I could have thought anything about my spiritual father, but this.... I did not know that Bayev was fiercely anti-Soviet, that he took part in the kulak gangs in the Altai, that he escaped execution by chance...."

They conversed for a long time. Then Yeremenko said:

"Now go to the weapons room and examine your automatic weapon. Tomorrow we go out on the firing range."

Two years of service pass and Private First Class F. Shenkel', one of the best marksmen in the subunit [podrazdeneniye], kisses his weapon and turns it over to a young soldier. A little later, a letter arrives at the subunit with the lines: "I am studying at the art institute in the department for drawing and painting. The past is over forever. Thanks for everything!"

In recalling this event, one involuntarily asks himself whether Private Pavlovets will someday thank his colleagues. There is still room for doubt about that. Let us remember that the deputy commander for political affairs even forgot the soldier's family name. It is clear that he did not often talk with Pavlovets, was not concerned about his interests, and was not disturbed by the mail that he received. The same thing can be said about other communists and Komsomol members in the unit [chast']. They approached Pavlovets with a valiant cavalier attack a time or two, encountered a silent rebuff and gave up.

But is it possible to reeducate a person thoughtlessly? For here a particular approach is needed, constant, well-considered and nonstandard work, as, for example, in the case of Private Shenkel'. As in another situation....

It all began when the members of the library council of N-unit were examining the condition of the books. In one of the volumes, they discovered a letter about God, about "devine servants," and some verses resembling a prayer. The activists became interested and informed the party committee about the find.

And then on the next Sunday, an unusual announcement caught the attention of the soldiers: "The Bible asserts that only God can bring the desert to life. N. Golovatskiy, chairman of the kolkhoz '40 Let Oktyabrya' in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast and hero of socialist labor, demonstrates something else. A meeting with him will take place...."

In his speech, Nikolay Nikitovich Golovatskiy completely refuted the saying "without God you will not even get to the threshold." The 70-year-old chairman has a special right to do that. When he took over the kolkhoz 30 years ago, the place was full of boulders and duststorms raged. And now it is a green oasis. In just 1 day, the million-ruble kolkhoz receives as much income as it did in all of 1950. Today living conditions are in no way different from those in the city. A new settlement is now going up here under a special project developed by Kazakh scientists. N. Golovatskiy stressed that the construction is costing the farm more than R20 million.

Then there were other meetings with outstanding people, evenings for questions and answers, and discussions of books and films, in which in one way or another they touched on questions of kindness, morality, loyalty to duty and honor. Each successive measure was more interesting than the last.

Before long, the family name of a believing soldier became known. At that time, however, he was no longer firm in his faith. And a meeting with a veteran of labor evoked the first spark of doubt. By the end of his service time, the soldier had completely stopped believing in God.

Private Pavlovets was not invited to such meetings. There simply were no such meetings. But they did pay "attention" to the soldier. He became a truly "irreplaceable" orderly. He was willing to take anyone's place, even on days off, when the lights of the soldiers' club were beckoning to his service colleagues. In return, he could use the quiet and solitude to pray.

It turned out that in the collective of soldiers, he was the first believer in many years. Here they had not yet learned to carry on atheistic education and had not even thought about its necessity. There were, after all, no believers. But here in the military construction detachment, where Maj L. Zhila is deputy commander for political affairs, there are soldiers serving with a religious orientation. There are one or two every year. Here, I thought, is where they have experience in atheistic education.

But this was not it. It turned out that the believing soldiers serve, as a rule, apart from the collective, at the most remote projects. In trying to

get rid of "difficult" charges, they often transfer them from unit to unit. It goes without saying that an "education" of this kind separates the believers from the collective even more. But precisely a collective, especially a military collective, hardening people physically and morally, can reeducate a person and inspire belief in his own strengths, in the strength of the army family, and in the necessity of being master of one's own fate and happiness.

They forgot about this in the military construction detachment. Only after repeated reminders did they carry out one "measure." It was proposed that it be addressed mainly to privates V. Vil'khovoy and S. Skumatov. But what happened was essentially without effect. Instead of inviting lecturers from the local department of the "Znaniye" society, who are knowledgeable about protestantism, they organized the appearance of specialists on the Orthodox Church. The lecturers showed how to "restore" icons, how candles "light themselves" and how bleeding wounds "are healed." But Vil'khovoy and Skumatov smiled, for they had "unmasked" Orthodoxy, which they consider to be a false teaching.

Later, when this error was pointed out, Maj L. Zhila, deputy commander for political affairs, noted with dissatisfaction:

"We are not specialists on atheism and we do not know about the details."

How can one respond to that? One would not think that it would be that difficult to find out about the religion of their soldiers. And it was long ago time to do that. But no one is involved with that. Even on the library form of the secretary of the party organization Maj G. Li, there are no books on atheism. And Maj L. Zhila and Ensign Popov, secretary of the Komsomol organization, are not even registered in the unit library.

"More than once," says Maj N. Gudym, "I offered to include the comrades from this subunit in the list of listeners, but it was all in vain."

But what kind of atheistic work is the club itself doing, and how is it trying to help in this difficult matter? Not at all so far. There are only four atheistic lectures in the plans for its annual work. Even Maj N. Gudym, who is responsible for carrying them out, suddenly acknowledges that he was supposed to give the lecture "By Prayer and By Sword" several months ago.

What can one say, a soldier who believes is a truly rare phenomenon. Nevertheless, one must perform regular atheistic work. It helps in an essential way to educate young people in the spirit of communist morality and consciousness, develops in them an active attitude on life, and teaches them to defend, when necessary, the atheistic position.

That is exactly how they operate in the unit where Capt A. Kavalaki is propagandist. There are no believers in this collective, but atheistic measures are carried out. And "round-table" meetings of party and Komsomol activists have become regular. One took place recently. It was lively, interesting and instructive. Maj M. Plavinskiy told how he conducted the work among believers of various faiths. Capt A. Zagrebel'nyy warned against errors similar

to the one that was once made by the activists of one subunit. Learning that a believer had appeared in their collective, they hurried to issue a satirical newspaper. The "round-table" participants shared the experience of preparing an atheist corner and of using in atheist education a wall press as well as means of graphic agitation, cultural-educational measures, films, artistic and political literature and technical means of propaganda.

In short, here they understand the importance of this work and they realize that there must be no interruptions in it.

The CPSU Central Committee decree "On Further Improvement in the Ideological and Political-Educational Work" speaks of the urgency of atheistic education. It calls for the development and implementation of specific measures to strengthen atheistic education and to increase the responsibility of communists and Komsomol members in the struggle against religious prejudices. This means that political workers as well as army, party and Komsomol activists must constantly think about how best to act in this sector of the ideological front.

Before leaving the garrison where Maj A. Kulagin is deputy commander for political affairs, I visited the political section, and here there was a telephone call. It was the political worker of the neighboring unit calling. He was interested in knowing whether it was true that a believing soldier was being transferred to their unit.

"Private Pavlovets?" I asked.

"He is the one," was the reply.

"And how did you take this news?"

The political worker was silent a moment and then said: "Let them transfer him. It means that they themselves do not know how to work...."

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ARMED FORCES

RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS NEEDED FOR REPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tashkent OQITUVCHILAR GAZETASI in Uzbek 27 Jun 84 p 2

[Article by M. Odilov, rector of Institute of Teacher Qualification Improvement and Retraining imeni K. D. Ushinskiy: "Let's Raise the Authority of Military Instructors"]

[Excerpt] In recent years a lot of work has been done to improve primary military preparedness throughout our country and in our republic. However, it is necessary to consider certain aspects in carrying out the resolutions of the CPSU CC and the USSR Council of Ministers. First of all, possible ways must be sought to materially encourage the work of military instructors in schools as well as vocational-technical schools. They are involved in complex matters: They are organizing and improving the educational-material base, are carrying out military-patriotic work, and are providing for the storage of arms. They are in charge of the Zarnitsa & Orlyonok military-sport games and maintain communication with rayon military commissariats and civil defense offices. They are also charged with the tasks of conducting work among pre-draft and draft age youths and selecting candidates for military academies. It can be seen that they are given many tasks, but are paid only for a minority of these tasks--conducting primary military preparedness lessons.

Therefore some military instructors consider military-patriotic upbringing extra work. Perhaps it would be appropriate in determining military instructors' basic wages to pay extra for hours of lessons.

Generally the specialists with good preparation--reserve or retired officers--are primarily concentrated in the cities and rayon centers. In village schools, particularly in those located distant from population points, there are very few of them or else there are none at all. In such places people conduct lessons who have no good methodological or military preparation, nor a sufficient mastery of the Russian language.

It is necessary to consider not just wages as material encouragement, but also privileges in provision of clothing, allocation of apartments, allocation of directions for sanatoria and rest houses and communal services. In other words, the authority of military instructors must be raised to a high level.

Secondly, it is necessary to wisely perfect the knowledge and skill of military instructors.

According to the regulation currently in force, newly appointed military instructors spend one month at one of the courses of a city or oblast institute of teacher qualification improvement. The lack of an appropriate educational-material base at these institutes and the study there by future military instructors are not giving sufficient results. It is appropriate for the preparation of military instructors and their qualification improvement to be realized in central institutes. For this it is necessary to organize military kafedras to create modern educational-material bases and military-sport complexes in these institutes and to organize 6-month courses for newly appointed military instructors. It is necessary for them, along with military affairs, to study the fundamentals of pedagogy and psychology, and to perfect their Russian language skills.

What advantages does the introduction of such things have? In the central institutions located in large cities and republic capitals there is the possibility of attracting highly qualified specialists to work in the military kafedras, and the staff of the military okrug, the republic military commissariat, the DOSAAF Central Committee and officers of the civil defense office to conduct certain lessons. In this way material-financial resources are productively used.

In addition to this, in view of the great role of military-patriotic and physical training of young pupils, it is useful to consider the post of deputy director for military affairs in the staff of school administration. At present the military instructor is considered a regular teacher, and has no right to influence physical training or the study of the Russian language. In the new post these matters would be included in his service obligation.

I will pause briefly to speak about a special uniform for pupils. It is known that a single military attire makes pupils disciplined and united, and raises the authority of upper class pupils among younger children. Those of draft age undergo internal changes. They begin to feel that they have become adults and have the natural feeling of pride that soon they will be given the task of defending the peaceful labor of the country with arms in their hands.

In order to achieve a fundamental improvement of primary military preparedness, help must be given to increase lesson hours in that subject. As of now the curriculum adopted for the country in 1981 is being followed. However, it does not take into account the natural characteristics of the union and autonomous republics, in particular the language barrier, and the general level of development of children, particularly those living in remote rayons. Considerable experience has been accumulated in our republic in the area of Russian language study. But it must be noted that this experience primarily concerns schools of large oblast and certain rayon centers.

Certainly measures implemented by our party and government to prepare Russian language and literature specialists from among local nationalities have produced good results. However, a certain proportion of those specialists do not meet today's demands. Their Russian pronunciation skills are not well developed. This has influenced the level of mastery of the subject in a negative fashion. They speak with those around them in their native language. In this regard it is appropriate to accept into Russian language and literature institutes and faculties preparing specialists in that subject those who have a good mastery of Russian or those who have completed schools with instruction in Russian. Ten or fifteen years ago philology specialists came to Uzbekistan to work from the RSFSR, Ukraine and Byelorussia. At that time the process of Russian language mastery was completed faster than today. It is necessary, even if only in part, to utilize this experience.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Billeting Deficiencies Corrected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Aug 84 p 2

[Editorial commentary published under the rubric "After Appearance in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: 'Here Flattery, There a Fib'"]

[Text] The satirist's remarks published under this headline on 12 June told of the unsightly appearance of the Kazan garrison military hotel and its long drawn-out repairs.

The chief of the Volga Military District Billeting Directorate V. Lisitsin informed the editorial staff that the article published in the newspaper was discussed in the billeting directorate and its subordinate organizations. Measures were agreed upon for improving conditions for those staying at hotels. The hotel discussed in the newspaper will be converted from military only to general use, having all the necessary conveniences. It is planned that the conversion of the hotel will take place before 1 October of this year.

Freight Shipment Delays in DRA

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial commentary published under the rubric "After Appearance in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: 'While the Helicopters Stand Idle'"]

[Text] This was the title of an article published on 10 August, contributed by Lt Col V. Skrizhalin of the limited contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan. It discussed the poor organization of military freight shipments.

As Lt Col V. Goncharenko has informed the editorial staff, the facts cited in the paper are accurate. The commander of the supply base, Major A. Tokarchuk, was severely reprimanded for the irresponsibility permitted in the organization of helicopter loading. At this time steps are being taken to improve the organization of shipping cargo by helicopters, and the cargo is being delivered in containers.

CSO: 1801/10

ARMED FORCES

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA IDENTIFIES SOVIET MILITARY OFFICERS

[Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian in its 12 October Second Edition carries on page 2 a 150-word report by own correspondent Colonel B. Iyapkalo under the headline "Meeting With Young Officers," identifying Lieutenant General V. Osipov as commander of the Red Banner Kiev Military District, and Major General V. Korablev as the first deputy chief of its political directorate.

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian in its 13 October Second Edition carries on page two, under the rubric "Measures Taken Following Readers' Reports," a reply to a reader's letter that identifies Major General N. Shlyaga as first deputy chief of the central group of forces political directorate.

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian in its 16 October Second Edition carries on page 2 a 150-word report on a scientific conference in Chita by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Bedzhanyan which identifies Major General I. Solodilov as "first deputy chief of the Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military District Political Directorate."

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian in its 25 September Second Edition carries on page 3 a report by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel M. Malygin on a rally at Battanya in Hungary which identifies Major General A. Makunin as member of the Military Council and chief of the political directorate of the southern group of forces.

CSO: 1801/32

GROUND FORCES

COMPANY TACTICAL EXERCISES DESCRIBED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 7, Jul 84 pp 20-21

[Article by L. Merzlyak: "Company Tactical Exercises"; continued from SMR No 6, 1984]

[Text] 2. The Carrying Out

Early in the morning the company was awakened by the assembly signal.

When the combat equipment and personnel arrived at the assigned area Major Kiselyov, a Bn CO, assigned Captain V. Shcherbina a tactical mission. It contained all necessary basic data for organising combat actions including the combat mission.

The company commander specified the tactical mission, defined the measures which were to be carried out immediately and made the timing. Then he gave instructions to the company commanders to prepare for the combat mission. Captain Shcherbina operatively estimated the situation, took the decision on the map and reported it to the Bn CO. After the exercise director approved the decision, Captain Shcherbina brought it to the platoon commanders' notice and gave them instructions on organising an all-round support of battle, control and political work.

Having checked the work of the company commander in the departure area, Major Kiselyov and the commanders in training went to the FEBA where they carried out on-the-spot reconnaissance. Then the company commander issued a verbal order and organised cooperation. The exercise director thereupon checked the organisation of decision making and assignment of missions to the platoon commander.

While the company and platoon commanders were working on the terrain, the personnel in the departure area were preparing weapons and combat equipment for the coming battle. Stocks of ammunition and fuel were replenished and a check of materiel carried out.

Under the supervision of the deputy commander for political affairs party-political work was carried out. The main stress was laid on individual work with the men.

Presently the chief for layout of training targets reported about the readiness of the target field and the company commander about the company's readiness to fulfill the mission. Having made sure that the subunit and drill targets were prepared and all instructions concerning organisation of battle and safety measures were completely fulfilled, the exercise director gave a conventional signal. At this signal the company began to move.

The advancement of platoons from the initial point to the line of passing over to the attack was carried out in consecutive order. Here the exercise director sees to it that each platoon pass the initial point and arrive at the line of launching the attack and at the line of dismounting in good time.

In modern-day conditions increased speed of movement and manoeuvrability on the battlefield is of paramount significance. Therefore, while simulating combat actions the subunits are trained in quick deployment from march columns into prebattle and battle formations for rapid positioning for a flank attack and manoeuvring to the rear, and in carrying out an assault both mounted on IFVs and on foot.

At exercises as in real battle the offensive is carried out at a rapid pace. This does not mean, however, that one may move hurriedly without taking into consideration the resistance of the defending side. And though the enemy is a simulated one, this circumstance cannot be left out of the reckoning. Everything must approximate the situation of real combat.

For example, in actual combat the attacking side (depending on the extent to which the defences have been neutralised) advances to the depth unevenly. Success frequently has been achieved not on the entire front of combat operations but on separate sectors. Therefore, at exercises, too, one must not allow a machinegun and motorised infantry platoons to move forward evenly like on a review. All this makes it easier for the trainees to carry out combat missions and relieves the company commander of his responsibility to protect the flanks.

At the exercise in question Major Kiselyov ensured the success to the left-flank Mfs Inf Pl because this subunit deployed into a line formation in a more organised manner than the others. Then a platoon advancing in the centre rushed forward. But soon the exercise director slowed down its advance because of the threat of a blow at the open flank.

The FEBA is closer, the decisive moment of battle ensues.

In accordance with the plan of the exercise the exercise director allows a fire support imitation of the attack. The "enemy" displays activity. The imitation group, which designates the defenders, delivers "fire" at the advancing motorised infantry.

Fire resistance is growing. Here the company commander gives command while platoon leaders duplicate it: "Company (platoon) be ready for dismounting." The IFV's quickly catch up with the tanks, the personnel set their arms at safe, take them from loopholes and prepare for dismounting. When the company

approaches the line of dismounting by the command: "Company to vehicles" the driver mechanics slow down the vehicles, or taking advantage of the available shelters, make short haults. The motorised infantry quickly dismount, deploy in battle formation on the move and, following the tanks by their tracks and through gaps made in obstacles, overcome them. The platoon commanders during the movement specify the missions for sections, and control the fire of his subunits.

With the approach of the attackers to the first "enemy" trench to within a distance of 25-30 m, the motorised infantry throw offensive grenades and with a cry of "Hurrah!" rush jointly with the tanks into the FEBA, defeat the "enemy" and continue the offensive in the indicated direction nonstop.

Having rapidly attacked and defeated the "enemy" in the platoon strong points on the forward edge, the company continues its advance in the depth of its defence. All goes well. But suddenly several fire emplacements of the defenders "come to life." The exercise director gives instructions to his assistant in simulation to designate targets. The other strong point where the "enemy" puts up still greater resistance the company bypasses, and attacks it from the flank and rear.

As the resistance of the defenders becomes weaker the motorised infantry advancing on foot by the signal of the company commander enter the IFV's and continue the attack.

But the situation becomes more complicated. When the motorised infantry reaches Hill 145.7 the exercise director through his assistant simulates a contaminated area 600 m deep on the company's route. He checks what skills the commanders and privates possess in using individual protective means, how the personnel take cover in IFVs and how they negotiate a contaminated area.

Hardly had the servicemen coped with this mission when the next complication of the tactical situation followed. Major Kiselyov gives a narrative: "'Enemy' reserves advance to Hill "Blindazhnaya." A meeting engagement is about to take place."

Having correctly estimated the situation, the company commander took the decision: To forestall the "enemy" opening fire, by attacking the flank to destroy his advancing subunits. Having skillfully enveloped the "enemy," the motorised infantry fulfilled the assigned mission and gained victory in the meeting engagement. Now the rehearsal of combat actions has ended.

Here in the field the exercise director made a particular critique. The sub-unit commanders checked the availability of manpower, combat equipment and property. After listening to the reports about the check the Bn CO ordered the mission to follow to the area of their disposition.

But that was not yet the end of the company tactical exercise. A return march of subunits to the places of their constant disposition must be carried out against the background of the tactical situation with the working out of

the training tasks. For example, the company under Captain Shcherbina during the march was repulsing the "enemy" surprise attacks, the personnel trained in defence against nuclear, air and chemical attacks, while the commanders gave various control signals along the column. Frequently, the exercise director gave narratives, which demanded the dispatch of various organs of security on the march, reconnaissance, changing the direction of movement, and deployment into prebattle and battle formations.

For the personnel the exercise came to an end only after their arrival to the area of their permanent location.

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CSO: 1812/25

GROUND FORCES

USE OF HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS IN TRAINING EXERCISES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Grishukevich, Red Banner Belorussian Military District:
"The Effectiveness of Hypothetical Situations in Training Exercises"]

[Text] The control training in the launching battery which is commanded by Sr Lt A. Karabut began with the signal "Fall-in!" The infrequent changes in the rhythm of actions did not catch the teams napping. The soldiers had time and again reacted to such a signal, and they had learned to engage in military training at any hour of the day. But this time a surprise was waiting for them. When they arrived at the position, they suddenly heard a cannonade and the crackle of machine gun bursts. Then a record was played which added the sounds of exploding smoke-puff charges. And although all the soldiers understood this, there were delays in the work of some.

However, the battery as a whole continued to carry out the training task. One after another, a number of teams reported the functional checks of technical systems and readiness for battle. It appeared that the results would be no worse than the day before. But unexpectedly, a strong explosion shook the position. Members of the launching battery heard the sound of an airplane passing over. The specialists became noticeably agitated. When a thick trail of smoke was drawn toward the launcher, the actions of the launching battery members were completely messed up.

"What luck!" complained the battery commander, Sr Lt Karabut, after the exercise. But the young platoon commander's answer to the examiner's question about how the battery members felt after the exercise helped bring out the truth.

"I work on equipment, and I think to myself: 'What else is the examiner going to think of?'" admitted the young officer.

This battery is considered among the best. And, naturally, the results of the control exercise prompted the divisional command, as well as the soldiers of the sub-unit itself, to think about many questions. Above all, the following: What is the effectiveness of hypothetical training variables which the soldiers solve during training exercises? Do they always help form the quality in the launching battery members which is necessary for battle?

Unfortunately, at times one notices: once the commander has introduced one or two variables into the training exercise, then the training continues with the observance of all existing demands. The individual officers do not ponder, for example, the type of hypothetical situation, when to insert it, or what forces and means are necessary for solving the training task. All these questions are closely related to each other, revealing the ability of the soldiers to act decisively and resourcefully in a complicated situation.

Of course, these hypothetical situations which were adapted by the battery at a fixed stage played their role. But with time, the specialists got used to them, developed actions that were almost automatic and began to content themselves with the results. The commander did not pay attention to this.

Sr Lt Karabut spoke at the party meeting about how he was preparing his battery for the final testing. The officer was also invited to the conference of the unit methodology council where they gave him recommendations on preparing and conducting training. The divisional commander, Lt Col V. Ugarov, and other experienced officers began to visit the sub-unit more frequently. Being at battery training exercises, they noticed mistakes and gave good advice.

To the credit of the battery officers, they with all seriousness considered the recommendations of their senior comrades and thoroughly began to prepare for each training. Now the majority of training exercises are carried out not only under complicated conditions but with an increasing tempo. For example, in the beginning of the training the soldiers worked out the norms, above all paying attention to the quality of carrying out operations on the equipment and at the end of the training, they were working, so to speak, against time.

As a rule, for each field exercise Sr Lt Karabut tries to mentally "play it through" from beginning to end, thinking about at which stage he will introduce a particular variable. Thus, earlier, the command "Gas" was given at the moment of preparing the missiles for launching. The soldiers got used to the fact that the command would be given only at a given stage of the training and prepared themselves ahead of time for this. The officer changed the time of its introduction and complicated the tactical scenario that they had adapted to. Now, it is not uncommon, let us say, that while the defense specialists are warding off an attack by the "enemy's" diversional group, they might substitute for their fellow soldiers at a nearby battle position because of the variable that was introduced.

The actions of missile crews in complicated situations still are not always irreproachable. There are operations, for example, during the loading of launchers at night which demand a more thorough polishing. One would like to believe that the soldiers learn something from the exacting recommendations they have received and that the main exams of the year will show higher marks.

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GROUND FORCES

MINESWEEPERS, SWEEPS DESCRIBED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 7, Jul 84 pp 26-27

[Article by Captain 1st Rank (Res.) V. Nikolayev]

[Text] Mine-sweepers are combatant ships intended for search and destruction of sea mines, for piloting ships and vessels through mine fields, and also for carrying cargoes and landing parties.

Mine-sweepers are divided into ocean, coastal and harbour sweepers, and mine-sweeping boats.

Ocean mine-sweepers are used in distant areas of theatres of naval operations. Their displacement is 660 to 1,300 t, they develop a speed of 18 knots (33 km/h) and are armed with 20 to 40-mm automatic antiaircraft cannons. Some ships carry one or two 76 to 100-mm guns. Ocean mine-sweepers are capable of going on long cruises within detachments of ships usually effecting landing operations. Their task in this case is to ensure safe passage through the area adjoining the landing site.

Coastal and harbour mine-sweepers generally operate in domestic waters. The displacement of coastal mine-sweepers is up to 500 t, their speed is up to 16 knots (29.6 km/h) and their armament consists of 20 to 40-mm automatic anti-aircraft cannons. The displacement of harbour mine-sweepers is up to 250 t, their speed is up to 24.5 knots (43.35 km/h) and their armament includes 20-mm automatic antiaircraft cannons.

Mine-sweeping boats are intended for use in harbours, and also on rivers and canals. They are not large in size: their displacement does not exceed 100 t. The boats develop a speed of up to 12 knots (22.2 km/h) and their armament consists of antiaircraft machine guns.

Mine-sweepers were initially used in Port Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. At the time they were actually auxiliary ships adapted for mine-sweeping. The experience of maritime warfare has shown that to fight mines successfully, special ships are required. The world's first mine-sweepers as a new type of ships were built in 1909 in St. Petersburg. They were named "Minrep" (mooring line) and "Vzryv" (explosion). Owing to the fact that mines were used ever more increasingly during the First and

particularly during the Second World wars, the number of mine-sweepers in each of the belligerent navies grew dramatically.

Quite a few brilliant pages in the history of the Soviet Navy were written by seamen, starshinas and officers of the Order of the Red Banner 1st Mine-Sweeping Brigade of the Baltic Fleet. In August 1941 the brigade ensured the passage of the fleet's main forces and transport ships from Tallinn to Kronstadt. In the subsequent period of the war the brigade's personnel destroyed enemy mine fields, cleared the fairways of mines, piloted ships and vessels, performed patrol duty, transported troops and cargoes and were used in landing operations, and carried out other missions.

The brigade particularly distinguished itself in the 1944 Moonsund Operation. In the course of the latter the brigade's ships landed more than 10,000 troops, and brought 36 tanks, 65 guns, 400-plus automotive vehicles and close on 7,000 tons of ammunition, foodstuffs and other cargoes to the Moonsund Islands. During the last year of the war and the first postwar years the brigade fulfilled missions to sweep and deactivate sea mines in a number of areas of the Baltic Sea. The brigade's ships during the war destroyed a total of 4,000 sea mines and 600 antimine-sweeping explosive floats (devices intended to fight sweeps and paravanes laid next to the mine field).

True to their internationalist duty, the Soviet minesweeping personnel took part in demining the Suez Canal and ports in Bangladesh. Operating in extremely difficult conditions, far from home bases, the crews displayed exceptional courage and high combat training standards. Their heroic efforts helped quickly to eliminate the danger of ships running into a mine field and restore regular navigation. A great number of seamen were decorated with government awards.

Modern Soviet mine-sweepers (ocean, coastal and harbour alike) are provided with echo-ranging systems and TV equipment to search for and classify the detected mines, sweeps of different purposes, demolition charges for mine blasting, and remote control apparatus for mine detection and clearance.

Regardless of the mine-sweeper's small size, its complement have everything necessary for normal service and leisure in any conditions. How do mine-sweepers operate?

To locate a mine field, determine its boundaries and establish the degree of navigation safety. An exploratory and then a test sweeping is performed with the aid of contact and influence sweeps, top priority being given to inspecting areas most essential for navigation. The mines detected may be neutralised later on proceeding from the situation.

Contact sweeps are used in fighting moored, floating and drilling contact and influence mines, and antimine-sweeping explosive floats. The latter include explosive obstructors breaking the sweep or paravane with special cartridges, and cutter-type floats severing the sweeping section with special cutters. The main part of a contact sweep is a steel rope (sweeping section) kept at a predetermined depth with the aid of buoys and special devices. As regards

their effect on mines, such sweeps are subdivided into cutting (breaking the mooring line with the aid of demolition charges or cutters), towing (gripping the mine mooring line and taking it together with the anchor to shallow water for subsequent deactivation) and marking sweeps (designating a mine with stakes or buoys). There are also net sweeps (secured on a net frame) used for picking up floating and broken adrift mines, and ground mines planted on a hard bottom.

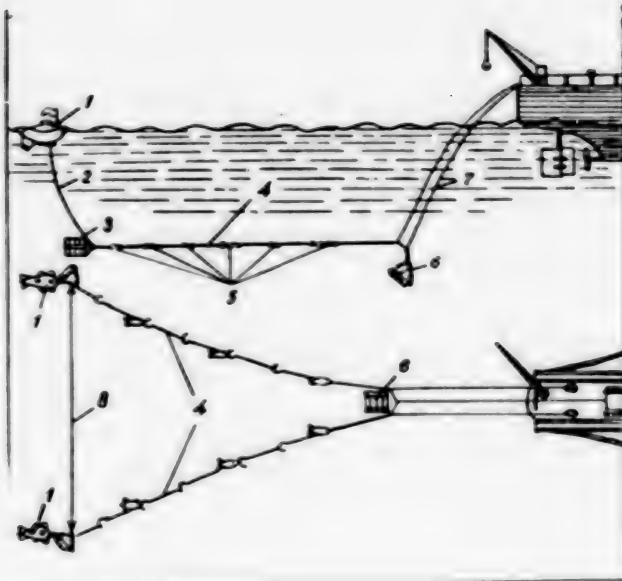
Influence sweeps are meant for disposal of ground and moored influence mines by acting on their timing devices with simulated physical fields (acoustic, hydro-acoustic, magnetic, electric, electromagnetic, thermal, hydrodynamic and gravitational). As to the effect they produce on mines, influence sweeps may be of electromagnetic, acoustic and combined types. In their turn, electromagnetic sweeps are subdivided into loop, solenoid and open-circuit sweeps, depending on the method used to generate the magnetic field. The sweeping section of a loop sweep is a ring electric circuit, and that of a solenoid sweep, a 15-25-m long iron core with a winding through which an electric current is passed. The sweeping section of an open-circuit sweep comprises two cables terminating in electrodes with electric current between them flowing through sea water. The power consumed by the sweeps ranges within 50 to 600 kW.

Depending on the frequency range of the simulated field, acoustic sweeps may be of a narrow- or wide-band type. An acoustic sweep is actually a towed buoy housing a percussion mechanism to generate an acoustic field in an aqueous medium. There are acoustic sweeps of an explosive type, consisting of a water-submerged tube through which small-weight explosive charges are dropped. There are also hydrodynamic sweeps imitating changes in the water pressure brought about by the moving ship. Combined sweeps include jointly towed electromagnetic and acoustic sweeps, and also sweeping boats and mine bumpers.

A sweep is generally made up of an outboard part and shipboard equipment. The outboard part comprises a towline, a depressor, a sweeping action (search elements), otters, marking buoys and paravane floats. The shipboard equipment consists of mine-sweeping winches, anchor davits (cranes), electric current generators for powering the sweep, converters, monitoring and remote control devices, etc.

Sweeps are used in combination with mine detectors, which are actually towed or remotely controlled self-propelled systems intended for mine location, marking and disposal. Depending on the physical principle underlying the search method, mine detectors are divided into hydroacoustic, optical, magnetic, electromagnetic, electric and laser ones. In hydroacoustic detectors the energy radiated by its source is reflected from the underwater object to be recorded by a special receiver. Optical detectors locate underwater objects with the aid of TV and photo devices. Magnetic, electromagnetic and electric mine detectors employ the principle of registering the changes in the respective physical fields with mines getting in the way of the latter. A laser beam is used in laser detectors to identify the submerged object.

Mines are swept up by groups or divisions of mine-sweeping ships. When mine characteristics are unknown, explosives or mine bumpers are generally used.



A Double Cutting Sweep

Key:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Buoy | 5. Cutters |
| 2. Buoy pendant | 6. Depressor |
| 3. Otter | 7. Towline |
| 4. Sweeping section | 8. Grip width |

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CREWS TRAINED FOR JOB VERSATILITY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Captain M. Lisovskiy, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "For a Repeated Flight"]

[Text] The missile carrier slowly taxied down the runway, obeying the signals of Guards Captain A. Mukhin. From the side it appeared that the officer was inviting the airplane with gestures: quietly it approached, resting after a difficult task in the sky.

The breathing spell would not be long--the aviators had already been assigned the task of preparing the interceptor for a repeat flight. To be even a minute late was not allowed: the "enemy" would then deliver the first blow. Now everything depends on the coordinated actions of the pilot and aviation specialists.

Near the central fueling tanks the pilot turned off the engine of the missile carrier. One could still hear the turbine rotors continuing to turn. During their idling, the airplane mechanic has to determine if the engine and bearings are in good order, and if the lubrication system is still working. Guards Captain Mukhin looks at his stop watch, touching the wing tip with his right hand. At that moment, he looks like a doctor, listening to a patient.

Then the mechanic raised his head: the engine--heart of the machine--is in order. Mukhin gives the signal to the mechanic, then nimbly places the step-ladder on the fuselage.

"Do you have any observations?", says Mukhin, turning to the pilot. The maintenance group specialists, standing alongside, were quiet--what would be the answer? Therein lies the estimation of their work. In the squadron commanded by Guards Lt Col V. Basov, aviators have assumed high socialist obligations, and in fulfilling the training-military tasks strive for nothing less than excellent.

"No discrepancies," notes first class military pilot Guards Captain V. Koskin in the journal. All systems and equipment worked normally. Thank you!"

Suddenly, the aviation specialists became more lively. Quickly, but not hastily, they started preparing the airplane for a repeat flight.

The task unexpectedly became more complicated--at the request of the senior chief, the specialists were expected to work as a reduced team. Experience of the Great Patriotic War teaches that not only pilots, but also ground crew specialists suffer losses. Yet the military capability of the unit remained high. This means, that even today, one needs to know how to act in the most difficult conditions, be ready to substitute for each other. Take, for example, Guards Warrant Officer V. Panfilochkin. Normally, he works in the weapons maintenance group, but now he has to carry out the responsibility of airplane mechanic. The aviator mastered the related task quite well, passing on his experience to the mechanics of the sub-unit.

In the squadron, more attention is devoted to the preparation of soldiers, who in times of necessity could substitute for a comrade, and could accurately and skillfully carry out additional responsibilities. Toward this goal, special studies and training on combat equipment under the direction of experienced specialists are carried out. Now all pilots and technicians in the squadron possess a related profession, which allows him in case of a reduced team to conduct the maintenance on combat equipment.

"The system is completely ready to work," reports Guards Warrant Officer Panfilochkin and returns to carrying out his basic responsibility--inspection of aviation weapons.

Here in a related specialty works Guards Senior Lieutenant G. Gaydadyn: Things are going well for him here: the intense training was not in vain. The officer is grateful to one of the most experienced aviators of the sub-units, Guards Captain V. Grigorov, who is helping his comrade master the related profession.

By this time, the specialists have also finished the suspension of the training missiles. The team is under the command of the chief of the technical-maintenance unit Guards Kaptain M. Begera. By skillfully using a small mechanism, they quickly carry out all necessary operations. For the last time Guards Captain Mukhin evaluates the starting device--it is not by accident that he is in the rocket carrier--and checks the routes in the pre-flight logbook. After a few minutes, he walks over to meet the pilot:

"The airplane is ready for take-off!"

And toward the airplane preparation area taxied still another interceptor. Once again work got under way. All efforts of the Guards soldiers, as always, were directed so as to use each minute of the flight change with maximum effectiveness for further improvement of combat skills.

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NAVAL FORCES

SYRIAN PORT EXPANSION PROJECT IMPROVES TIES WITH USSR

LD142349 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Oct 84

[Text] Fruitful Soviet-Syrian economic cooperation widens every day. Kazbek Basiyev, our correspondent in the Syrian Arab Republic, reports:

The port of Latakia, where, according to a Soviet design, work is being carried out to extend its water way and its production capacity, is one of the most important projects now being built in Syria with USSR cooperation. (Ramadan al-Siya) general director of the Latakia port, speaks about the significance of the project to widen Syria's main "sea gates."

[Begin (Al-Siya) recording--in Arabic with superimposed translation] Latakia port is one of Syria's most important transport arteries, which is of immense importance to the country's economy. Taking this into consideration, the republican government adopted a decision to widen the port, and in 1977, with the technical assistance of the Soviet Union, the basic construction work began. I have to say that, together with its great economic effect, this project will enable us to train our own national cadres with the assistance of Soviet specialists, for the construction of similar projects in the future.

The project to widen the port of Latakia, where our Soviet colleagues made a number of unique engineering decisions, is in this sense a splendid national school for Syrian specialists. In conclusion, I would like to say that the construction of this project will become yet another contribution to strengthening and widening friendly relations between Syria and the Soviet Union and between the peoples of our countries. [end recording]

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AFGHANISTAN

APPEARANCE OF BOOK ON DRA NOTED

Moscow ZNAMYA in Russian No 2, Feb 84 pp 227-228

[Review by A. Prokhanov of book "Neob'yavленная война" [Undeclared War] by K. Selikhov, Sovetskiy Pisatel', Moscow, 1983]

[Text] I am sure that a special "Afghan" literature should appear, and very soon, a literature about the events in Afghanistan and how they appeared in the consciousness of our individual, who was born and reached maturity in a peaceful and stable society oriented toward prosperity, an individual who by the will of fate suddenly found himself in a bloody exploded reality that is experiencing a historic drama, and he, our individual, a witness and a participant in this drama, is enriched by a unique and often terrible historical experience and looks differently at his house and home, his homeland and a peace being torn apart by an unprecedented total struggle.

Such books will appear and are already appearing. Kim Selikhov's book "Undeclared War" is one of them.

I know how it was created. Not in the calm of a study, nor in the slow study of archives, nor in the soft light of a library lamp. Selikhov would leave Moscow, disappear for a month or 2 and then return, emaciated and nervous and with a different, "non-Moscow energetics," and his stories were of battles on the highways, blown-up trucks, interrogation of prisoners, and howling and insane crowds smashing stores. He was snatched away from there carrying that within him, and he hurried to write it down.

He went back there again and again to succeed, see and understand. This book is a testimony, an analysis and a chronicle.

As a genre, it is an adventure and romantic story about a scout. Its fascination is in its detective nature, in the intertwining of circumstances and in the dynamics of fate. But it is not just that. Its fascination is in the unique material. The genre itself and the rapid change of heroes make it possible to touch on much, to show much, to create a panorama of the contemporary military-political process, to show the storm, to show Afghanistan, the cities and villages, the intelligentsia and the ordinary people, military people and the mullahs.... And the book is valuable and precious in presenting this panorama.

I saw builders going to Afghanistan for several years of contract work. They were looking for something to read about the country where they were to live, work, fight and give not only their abilities but possibly their lives as well. Selikhov's book would be a help to them. I remember some interpreters, quite young, who had been sent to Afghan provinces, remote areas. They complained that they had not been able to read anything about these lands, and they have no guidebook or manuals. I am sure that Selikhov's book would help them.

The book, which is indeed an adventure story and interesting literature, is something like a manual, a small encyclopedia of the contemporary Afghan revolution.

In this book, we learn the motives, sources and the very history of the rise of the Afghan revolutionary party NDPA: secret cells of revolutionaries in the slums of the old city and secret target ranges where the young patriotic officers learned how to shoot.

In dispatches, telephonograms and communications torn from the teletype, we grasp the pace of the development of the revolution, when the tank drivers in revolt stormed the presidential palace and the rebellious pilots delivered a bombing strike against Daud's nest.

We learn about the revolution's first steps, about the decrees, the instruments of the revolution. About land distribution in the villages, about schools and meetings, about women discarding the "parandzha," and about euphoria, hope and the first light....

And we learn about the destruction of these hopes, the terrible CIA diversion, the scene of the murder of Taraki, the triumph of Amin, torture in Poli-Charkhi Prison. About the crisis in the revolution and the forces of evil and darkness that rushed into that crisis. About the training centers in Pakistan, the infiltration of terrorists, the agonizing battles that gripped the entire country, the actions of the People's Army and reconnaissance.

About the fall and execution of Amin and the new stage of the revolution....

All of this is in Kim Selikhov's book "Undeclared War." All of this is expressed in the characters and scenes of the uprisings and putsches, the interrogation and the confessions. It is like a phonogram of polyphonic Afghanistan, where the voices of nomads and traders, muezzins and military commanders are interlaced like an echo in the canyons, and there is the sound of shooting, much shooting.

I read this book and I recognized Afghanistan. I saw all of this, including the charred and smoking truck alongside the road, destroyed by a bazooka hit. And the new recruits at the airport with their motley blankets and copper teapots, flying to Dzelalabad, where the fighting is. And the funerals, where a procession moved down the streets of Kabul in the rain, carrying a wooden bedstead with a white corpse resembling a large maggot. And from the doorway of his workshop, the tinsmith flashed the metallic reflection from his curved tin sheet into my eyes, just as he had done to the author. And the stone frying

pan, in which the nomads warmed their stewed rice and baked their flat cakes, burned my hand too. And I recognized Afghanistan not only by these impressions with names but also by the nameless condition of this country, in the mountains and valleys, in the turquoise skies, and in oneself, a condition linked with life and death and with the great hope that encourages people in this agonizing, terrible time, when many wither and die mentally and fall into hopelessness. Everyone who has visited Afghanistan has brought out this condition within himself, this epos of struggle, renewing himself in it, despite the losses, and acquiring higher values.

And there is yet another truth included in "Undeclared War" and confirmed by my own personal experience, not just in Afghanistan but also in Angola, Kampuchea and Nicaragua. There is a great war going on today, right now. It is on all continents and it does not have the nature of local or regional conflicts, for it is being waged from one center. The peoples of Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Nicaragua and Grenada have one enemy, and that is the CIA, the Pentagon and U.S. imperialism--powerful, ruthless, expert and absolute in its hatred toward us, what we hold sacred, the "Aurora," Vasiliy Blazhenny and toward our home, whether it be a five-story house in Tekstil'shchik, or a Caucasian mountain hut or a worker's mobile home near Tyumen.

Selikhov's book is about this war that chooses no territory, that is being fought on a territory called the earth. And the book is waging war. It is for warriors.

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET WINNER OF DRA BRAVERY MEDAL IDENTIFIED

PM2711404 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian in its 18 September Second Edition carries on page 2, under the headline "Devotion to International Duty," a photofeature--in response to a reader's letter requesting more such features--on Guards' Lieutenant Colonel Valeriy Stepanovich Belichenko, now serving in a unit of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, who was recently awarded the Afghan "Star" Order, 3d Class, for "courage and heroism shown in the fulfillment of international duty" while serving as commander of a helicopter squadron in the DRA. The reportage is accompanied by a photo of Belichenko surrounded by fellow servicemen following his receipt of the award.

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